

REMARKS

With this Amendment, claim 3 is cancelled. Therefore, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-10 are all the claims currently pending in this Application. With this Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges Applicants' claim to priority and the receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Statement of Substance of Interview

Applicants' representative conducted a telephone interview with Examiner Jeanglaud on March 3, 2008. During the interview, the Examiner agreed that the *Ex Parte Quayle* Action of February 25, 2008 was improper and that a new, non-final Office Action would be prepared and issued. This action followed.

Claim Amendments

With this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 10 are amended. All amendments are fully supported in the originally-filed Application. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

Claim 4 is objected to due to an informality. Applicants submit that the amendments to claim 4 address this informality and respectfully request that the objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. Applicants submit that the amendments to claims 1 and 8 address the Examiner's

concerns. Claim 3 is cancelled without prejudice. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the §112 rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Prior Art

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Naruse (U.S. Patent 6,374,159). Claim 3 is cancelled without prejudice, and thus this rejection is moot.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Naruse. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Regarding claim 1, Naruse fail to disclose or suggest measuring “a lateral force between a wheel and a vehicle body” (see also claims 4, 7, and 10). As its title suggests, Naruse is directed to a system and method for wheel alignment. All the forces measured in Naruse are forces on the wheel based on varying running conditions. There is no disclosure or suggestion of measuring a lateral force between a wheel and a vehicle body.

Naruse also fails to disclose or suggest using a force sensor to detect force from a wheel to a vehicle body when the vehicle is run on a substantially flat surface, and thereafter, using the force sensor to measure the force from a wheel to a vehicle body when the vehicle is run on a substantially flat road surface. (claims 1, 4, 7, and 10) Regarding the feature of detecting a force when a vehicle is run and *thereafter* detecting a force when the vehicle is run, the Examiner refers to col. 26, lines 11-22 of Naruse and the “first timing” and the “second timing”. It is clear from the description in Naruse, including col. 26, lines 11-22, that the first timing and the second timing represent a time at which the measurement period starts and a time at which the measurement period stops, respectively. There is no teaching or suggestion of a first force

detection and a second force detection *thereafter* while the vehicle is run on a substantially flat surface.

Therefore, in view of at least the above remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1, 4, 7, and 10 are patentable over Naruse and that claims 2, 5, 8, and 9 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Moskowitz
Registration No. 55,470

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 6, 2008